

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

3772

Author:

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Department:

Commercial and Operations

Contact:

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Subject:

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management approach

Total Value:

Nil (Type: Nil)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To approve the content and implementation of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Framework, Policy and Strategy, including the Highway Safety Inspection Manual and Winter Service Plan.
2. To continue applying good asset management principles in accordance with implementing the new Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice, by adopting the principles of asset management across the Council's highway and transportation areas.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** The report seeks to adopt the new Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Framework, Policy and Strategy. These will replace the existing Policy and Strategy and have been developed in line with current guidance. Further documents are being developed currently and will be available online at a future date.

The Department for Transport Incentive Fund requires local authorities to have an up-to-date and approved asset management policy and strategy. The Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice 2016 also recommends the documents are developed and published, taking into consideration new guidance and clearly demonstrating the contribution asset management makes towards achieving the Council's vision.

The lack of investment in highway infrastructure is a national problem after years of government austerity. A number of Highway Authorities have committed to fund essential maintenance work. In Nottingham, substantial investment will be required in the future to address the backlog for carriageways; this is estimated at up to 28m. Our Lifecycle Plans identify the need for sustained and increased investment in the highway network to address. We intend to use this information to seek front-loaded, long term funding settlements rather than funding from multiple sources that only provide short term half fixes. The Council needs to consider focusing capital spend on essential maintenance works.

**Briefing notes documents:** Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Framework 2019.pdf, Background information.pdf, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy 2019.pdf, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy 2019.pdf, Highway Safety Inspection Manual 2018.pdf, Highway Winter Service Plan 2019.pdf

**Other Options Considered:** Not having an adopted asset management approach means that services will potentially work in isolation, over or under maintain their assets. Not having the appropriate documents and practices in place will potentially cost the authority 10% of the capital grant it receives from the Department for Transport through the highway maintenance block. This in turn would place pressure on other council budgets to provide funding to address critically deteriorating highway assets. It will also reduce our chances of successful bids for funding if we cannot demonstrate an asset management approach, which has been adopted at the highest level. For these reasons, this option was rejected.

**Background Papers:** None

**Published Works:** None

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None

Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Highway Infrastructure Asset Management approach.pdf
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	29/01/2020
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity, Other: Jackie Handley(jackie.handley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)
Legal Advice:	<p>The proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues. The decision maker should satisfy themselves that, in approving the documentation referred to in this decision, they are comfortable with the principles set out in the documentation.</p> <p>Given the extent and complexity of the documents referred to, the Portfolio Holder may wish to seek further explanation and briefing before approving this decision.</p> <p>Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Director of Legal and Governance) on 07/01/2020.</p>
Finance Advice:	<p>This decision is supported as accordance with the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Framework, Policy and Strategy, and the new 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice' will mitigate the erosion of existing NCC budgets through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ensuring maximization of grant claims from the Department for Transport;</li> <li>2) strengthening future grant applications by demonstrating good asset management principles;</li> <li>3) ensuring that asset utilization is maximized at the correct levels demonstrating value for money.</li> </ol> <p>Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner) on 28/11/2019.</p>
Equality and Diversity Advice:	<p>The Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed and all comments / suggestions for amendment made have been incorporated into the revised version.</p> <p>Advice provided by Sally Edwards (Equality Diversity &amp; Inclusion Lead) on 25/11/2019.</p>

**Other Advice:**

The Insurance and Risk Team fully supports the proposed policies. Not only is it a requirement of the Council's insurers that the Council has these policies in place to assist with compliance under the National Code of Practice for Well Managed Highways Infrastructure, but these policies will also assist with defence of any civil claims against the Council. Civil claims for personal injury and damage to property against the Council are self-insured up to a value of £370,000 for each and every claim, there are significant savings to the Council in defending these claims where there is a legal defence. Without the correct policies in place, the Council's defence rate would reduce, which would have a significant impact on Council budgets.

Advice provided by Jackie Handley (Insurance & Risk Manager) on 07/01/2020.

**Signatures**

<b>Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care &amp; Local Transport)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/01/2020</b>
<b>Andy Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/01/2020</b>